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28 January 2012

RE: *Chairman Johnson Announces a Hearing on Social Security's Death Records, HR 3475*
Thursday, February 02, 2012

Dear Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Master Death File aka Social Security Death Index is used by many people and businesses to stop identity theft. It is used to help with repatriation projects to reunite the remains of POW'S with their families; it is used to stop credit card fraud; it is used to stop welfare fraud; it is used to stop tax fraud; it is used in probate cases to determine legal heirs; it is used by the health care industry to track people who have been involved with medical studies; it is used to determine oil and mineral rights; it is used by the organization Families For Forgotten Heroes to find the families of the unclaimed remains of our nation's veterans that are sitting in storage at funeral homes; it is used by the organization Unclaimed Persons to help coroners and medical examiners find the next of kin of people who have passed away.

The SSDI is a very valuable tool that is used by many people who do good works in our country. Please work to protect my right under the Freedom of Information act to access the SSDI. Taking that right away will not fix the problem of identity theft: it will do the opposite and make it easier for criminals to commit that crime.

Thank you for ensuring that my access to this valuable resource is continued.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Hamill

A Citizen of the United States of America